District	Year wise number biogas plants set up		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Akola		1	2
III	—	1	2
		1	1
			2
Osmanabad	—	4	2
Solapur	4	4	2
Parbhani			1
Dhule	—	3	7
Nanded	4	—	2

Non-Supply of Gas to HFC and Assam Petroleum

2456. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of natural gas produced during the last three years in the country;

(b) the quantum of gas flared in Assam oilfields during the same period;

(c) whether the Fertilizer Plant of HFC and Assam Petrochem Unit at Namrup are suffering due to non-supply of gas, despite flaring of the gas; and

(d) whether gas is being preserved for use by private investors while starving the State-run units: if not, the steps taken to augment the supply of gas to Namrup plants of HFC and Assam Petrochem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SH. T. R. BAALU): (a) the quantum of natural gas produced during the last three years in the country was 50.23, 53.33 and 61.85 MMSCMD respectively.

(b) The quantum of gas flared in Assam during the same period was 1.82, 1.53 and 1.01 MMSCMD.

(c) Gas is being supplied to Assam Petrochemicals, Namrup according to their requirement. HFC, Namrup is currently drawing upto 0.36 MMSCMD against 0.48 MMSCMD available from ONCC and 0.80 MMSCMD against 1.1 MMSCMD available from OIL.

(d) No, Sir. The supply to HFC, Namrup has been augmented by setting up compressors to put low presure gas into the grid.

Wastage of fruits and Vegetables for lack of processing-facilities

2457. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) has reported that India does not have adequate facilities to process excess fruits and vegetables and as much as 22 percent of the produce is lost every year due to over-ripenning and wastage;

(b) whether the installed capacity of processing units is mere 2.5 per cent and the capacity utilisation of must of these plants has been below 50 per cent; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to increase their installed capacity to achieve a respectable level of utilisation of fruits and vegetables into packed products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) While the report of Technology Information and Forecasting Assessment Council has not been received by this Ministry and survey has been conducted to assess the perishing and non-utilisation of fruits and vegetables, it is estimated that quality deterioration of loss in value that takes place is about 25 to 30% in some fruits and vegetables due to inadequacy of infrastructure and perishability of the produce.

(b) It is estimated that the installed capacity of fruits and vegetable processing industry on 1.1.96 was 17.6 lakh tonnes. The production during the year 1995 is estimated at 8.5 lakh tonnes.